

**MO HealthNet Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) and
Behavioral Smoking Cessation Benefits in Missouri:
A Summary**

(Note: The below explanation of benefits has been reviewed and approved by MO HealthNet.)

The MO HealthNet Division (MHD) will cover two (2) quit attempts of up to 12 weeks of intervention per lifetime, including behavioral and pharmacologic interventions. Below are a series of bullet points intended to clarify this policy.

- A full 24 weeks of behavioral and/or pharmacologic interventions are available over the lifetime of the participant. These can be delivered over any time-period: one 24-week period; two 12-week periods; three eight-week periods; etc. If a participant received a four-week supply of NRTs and decided to continue smoking thereafter and didn't receive any more, he/she would still have 20 weeks of NRT benefits left.
- Further, the participant can be prescribed different types of NRTs within the course of treatment. The participant can be prescribed one product one month and different product the next month.
- There is also a lifetime limitation of 24 sessions of the behavioral intervention. These sessions do not have to be used in conjunction with the NRTs if the prescriber so chooses. For claims payment, there is no connection between the behavioral intervention and the NRT benefit—they are “not married.” Reimbursement is limited to one session per day.
- Exception to lifetime limit: Although there is a 24 week lifetime limit on NRTs, for pregnant women the lifetime limit is not hard and fast. Providers can call in for a Clinical Exception if a pregnant woman needs an NRT but has used her lifetime limit.
- If a provider wants to check to see how many weeks of NRTs and/or behavioral interventions a participant has left, they can access CyberAccess, MO HealthNet's claims-based electronic health record available to health care providers. CyberAccess displays prescriptions in “real time”, as pharmacy claims pay at the point of sale. Although claims for procedures are not billed in real time, CyberAccess also lists procedure codes billed to the MO HealthNet program. This allows CyberAccess to be used to track the availability of behavioral interventions for each participant.
- All NRTs must be prescribed by a legal prescriber. This includes over-the-counter NRTs such as nicotine patches and nicotine gum.
- NRTs dispensed to an individual during an in-patient hospitalization do not count toward the 24-week lifetime limit. All drugs dispensed during an in-patient hospital stay are covered by the hospital's per diem reimbursement rate.
- All doses of the nicotine patch (7 mg, 14 mg, and 21 mg) may be prescribed.